



# ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT **ESPRIT**

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October 2000

## LTG Robert B. Flowers Assumes Command as Chief of Engineers



photo by F.T. Eyre, HQUSACE

LTG. Flowers reviews the troops following his promotion and assumption of command ceremony.

On 6 October 2000, the U.S. Senate confirmed Maj. Gen. Robert B. Flowers for appointment to the grade of Lieutenant General and assignment as the Chief of Engineers/Commanding General, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC. LTG Flowers became the 50th Chief of Engineers in an Assumption of Command ceremony at Ft. Meyer on 23 October 2000.

The Chief of Engineers has Army Staff responsibility for en-

gineering, housing, construction, real property, natural resources and environmental programs, and provides advice and assistance on military engineering and topographic matters. As a major commander, he directs more than 500 military and approximately 37,000 civilian personnel with an annual program exceeding \$10 billion. Major missions include military construction for the Army and Air Force, environmental restoration of current and former defense installations, and the Army's civil works program. The Corps provides engineering assistance following natural disasters, regulates work in the nation's waterways and wetlands, conducts research and development, serves as the Army and Air Force real estate agent, and provides engineering services to 60 other federal agencies.

Most recently, LTG Flowers served as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and

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## Commander's Perspective

### *Changing seasons.....*



**Col. Michael R. Morrow**

Fall has arrived amidst a flurry of activities. We have recently completed the National Waterways conference, the Natural Resources conference and the SAME Regional conference. The lakes and Rivers projects have completed a series of activities designed to enhance the public's knowledge and appreciation for our recreational and environmental stewardship missions. The entire district has done an outstanding job of executing our missions throughout the summer months and into the fall transition.

Fall is a traditional time of harvest and preparing for the coming winter. We experience less daylight and continual changes in the weather. Our emphasis on safety needs to shift with the season. For many of us it means driving to and from work in the dark and on some days driving under wet or foggy conditions. Allow extra time into your travel schedules and check your car's lights and safety equipment. Be careful around the house and in the yard when working on fall clean up projects. Have you checked the batteries in your home's smoke alarms and have you practiced your family's fire evacuation plans? Has the chimney been cleaned and inspected prior to use this year?

Fall also heralds the start of deer and hunting season. Hunting safety is a must. Ensure you are familiar with all applicable safety and hunting rules. Enjoy this beautiful fall season and be safe!

Elections are right around the corner, ensure your voice is heard, get out and vote.



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District

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# Rocky Mountain High (Explosives)

By Gregg Kocher

Like a sharp wind, the shock wave could be felt through the cracks in the rocks. A monolith the size of three Volkswagens vibrated as the resounding boom echoed through the Colorado mountains. A pall of black smoke rose above the 12,000-foot peak as the team members emerged from their hunkered-down position. An unexploded 155mm artillery shell that had lain undisturbed on the mountain for 36 years was safely detonated.

Three members of the St. Louis District's Ordnance and Technical Services Branch, Engineering Division — Project Manager Tom Murrell, Historian Jim Luebbert and Safety Specialist Gregg Kocher — spent two weeks combing National Forest property formerly known as Camp Hale, where ski troopers of the elite 10th Mountain Division trained in World War II. This team was searching for evidence of ordnance and explosives that may still pose a threat to public health and safety. The mission was to characterize former military firing ranges and to identify potentially contaminated areas. The end product will be an exhaustive Archives Search Report, utilizing historical maps, documents, interviews and aerial photography to gather the necessary information.

This project, which is under the auspices of the Omaha District and the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, and is being conducted in conjunction with the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the US

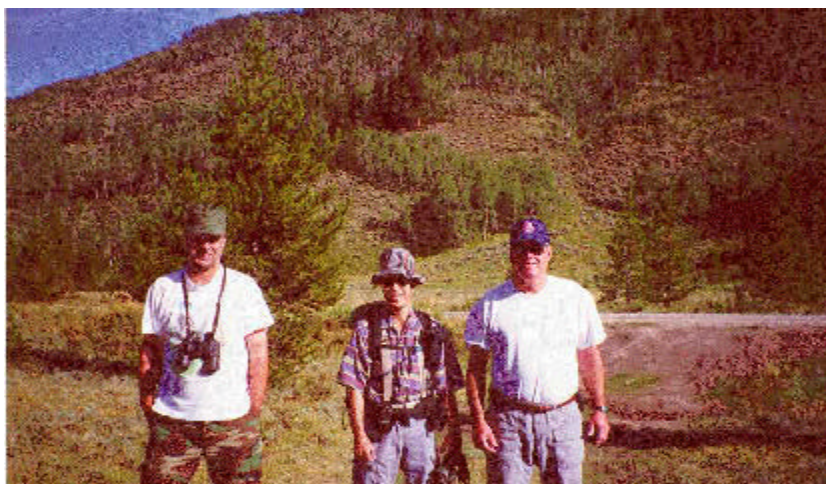


**A shell is safely exploded after lying dormant for 36 years**

Forest Service, was a daunting task. In its heyday, the former Camp Hale occupied 200 square miles, with the cantonment area sitting at an elevation of 9,200 feet.

Jim Luebbert conducted extensive research not only at the National Archives, but at local depositories and uncovered not only the locations of a variety of

training and maneuver areas, but that of a 155mm howitzer shell which had been fired for avalanche control during the building of the Homestead Reservoir in 1964. This round failed to function and was never found until the St. Louis District team climbed the mountain and located it. "Beyond a needle in a haystack," was US Forest



(from left to right) Jim Luebbert, Gregg Kocher, Tom Murrell

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# News Briefs

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## **Carlyle Lake:**

### **Drowning at Kaskaskia Lock & Dam**

On September 3 at 1820 hrs a 22-year old male drowned on the Mississippi River side of the Kaskaskia Lock & Dam. Approximately 150 boats were waiting to be locked through below the gates and along the guidewall. As the gates were opening the man apparently fell off his wave runner into the water. His lack of familiarity with lock systems may have led to the accident. The Randolph County sheriff's deputies, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Conservation, Medstar Ambulance Service, Chester firefighters, O'Fallon Fire Department search and rescue workers, and CO-A/CO-AK Project staff responded to the scene. At 0110 hrs the body was found on the Mississippi side of the lock and dam with life jacket intact about 50 feet from the guidewall.

### **Project Tour**

On the evening of 8 September and the morning of the 9th COL Morrow and Wally Feld made a visit to Carlyle Lake to tour the project and to meet and work with the staff. COL Morrow and Mr. Feld were briefed by Robert Wilkins, Project Manager, and then accompanied Park Rangers Kathy Apple, Ken Gregory, Stacie Bedard, and Jason Selle on regular patrol activities, facility contract inspections, and visiting with campers. Ranger Alison Dolly

and COL Morrow joined IDNR staff for a 1.5 mile interpretive nature hike at Eldon Hazlet State Park.

### **Haunted Trail**

With Halloween came the annual Carlyle Lake "Little Trail of Horrors". The Little Prairie Nature Trail was transformed by ghosts and goblins into a trail of terror. The Little Trail of Horrors was open on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Brave souls began their journey at Carlyle McDonald's where a wagon ride took them to the haunted trail. The cost of admission was \$3.00, and with proceeds going to support the 2000 Carlyle Lake Fireworks Spectacular. Groups and organizations were encouraged to participate in creating their own terror spot along the trail. Prizes were awarded to the most ghoulish groups.

### **1st Annual Nutty Saturday**

The 1st Annual Nutty Saturday was held on Saturday, October 28, 2000. Participants collected nuts from a variety of trees. Nuts were planted in the East and West Spillway near the main dam. Awards were given for the largest amount of nuts gathered. This event aids in the reforestation of Carlyle Lake Project Lands. The event was hosted by the Carlyle Lake Project Office and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

## **Rivers Office:**

### **Watchable Wildlife**

By Erin Connett

The Rivers Project Office has a new educational resource to bring visitors closer to the wildlife that is found in our project. The Interpretive Services group has been working on a Watchable Wildlife Series of brochures to educate the public on the flora and fauna in this area.

These brochures are categorized by the order and class of the organism, and include a full color picture of each of the animals or plants. Visitors can use these color brochures as a field guide as they explore the Riverlands region. These brochures currently include waterfowl, songbirds, birds of prey - diurnal and nocturnal. Brochures on marsupials, carnivores and several other animals will be in print soon.

These brochures will be put into binders and can be downloaded from the web for educators and classes to use in the field. This Watchable Wildlife Series will also be incorporated with the Educator's Guide to the Riverlands, which includes activities to provide students a more interesting and fun way to look at nature.

**"Never miss a good chance to shut up"**

(Continued on next page)





## News Briefs (cont.)

### Wappapello Lake:

#### Public Lands Day

Wappapello Lake was a host site for the 2000 National Public Lands Day on 23 September. Mingo National Wildlife Refuge and the Mark Twain National Forest partnered with Wappapello Lake in hosting the event. Under threatening skies, over 120 volunteers performed trail maintenance on the Ozark Trail, picked up trash on Mingo Refuge and constructed and placed 15 blue-bird houses at various locations. After a morning of work, volunteers were provided with a picnic lunch, sponsored by the Wappapello Lake Lions Club, and were treated to blue-grass music provided by the Law Dog Band. Pat Ferraro, a local herpetologist, gave interpretive programs on reptiles at the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center. Additional thanks goes to Blackwell Baldwin Toyota and the Wappapello VFW for donations that made the picnic lunch available. While most of the volunteers were local area residents, a group of Girl Scouts from Kansas City made the trek to participate and help perform maintenance on the Ozark Trail.

#### Old Greenville Days

On September 16 and 17, Wappapello Lake held the 9th Annual Old Greenville Days at the Greenville Recreation Area. This two-day event is held to celebrate living history of the pre-1900's era. This year over 12,000 visitors enjoyed arts and crafts displays, a variety of children's games, Civil War reenactments, a candle light tour of



Memory Lane and beautiful blue-grass and gospel music. The Greenville High School Marching Band, antique tractors, classic cars and area scouting groups highlighted a parade, conducted by the Greenville Lions Club.

#### Re-Certification Training

On 27 September, Engineering Technician Jim Fox and Assistant Operations Manager Cynthia Jackson conducted a boat operator's refresher training course. The 8-hour refresher course is required every 5 years for those individuals who have obtained a boat operator's license by completing the 24-hour full course. Eleven staff members from Wappapello Lake attended the re-certification training.

#### Water Safety Sessions

On 23 September, Park Ranger Andrew Jefferson and SCEP Park Ranger Trainee Kathy Dickson conducted five 50 minute sessions on water safety (featuring Ranger Willie B. Safe) at the Annual J.A.K.E.S. (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge Ethics Sportsmanship) event which is sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation and Missouri Department of Conservation. Andrew and Kathy were able to share Ranger Willie B. Safe's message in a fun filled manner to 104 youths, ages 5-17. Give away items consisted of WBS activity books, buttons, screen savers, safety song cassettes, decals and life jackets. Two of the key activities were the water safety obstacle course and hypothermia simulation.





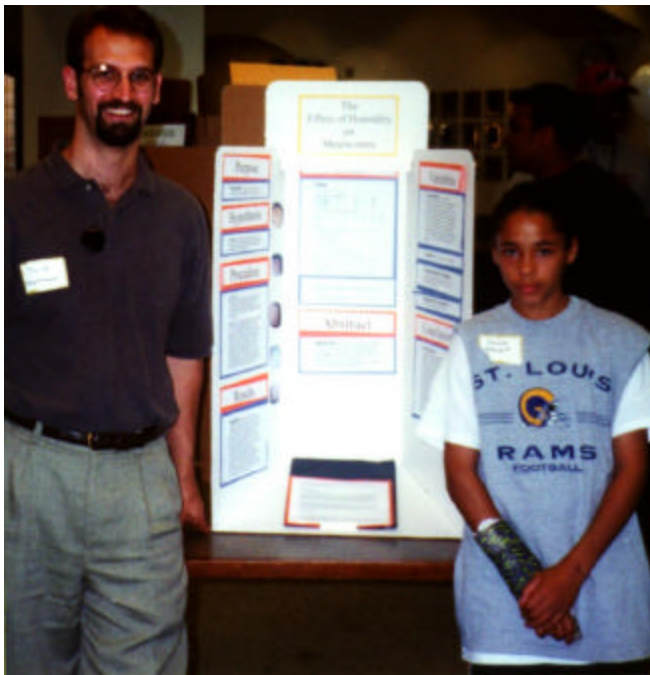
# The EnvironMentors Project

By Anne Regenstreif

I participated in the EnvironMentors Program last year and found it to be a very rewarding experience. This year's program should be even better. Last year we had eighteen mentor and student pairs, and would have had more pairs if we had had more mentors. So if you volunteer, you will definitely be welcomed with open arms!

The EnvironMentors Project this year will begin with a series of group activities involving all the mentors and students. As people get to know each other, student-mentor pairs will be formed, and work on the science projects will begin, culminating in a Science Fair. Last year, the student projects were presented at both the school Science Fair, and an Environmentors' Science Fair. The students also presented their work to elementary classes. This was the high point of the program for me! I could see the growth that my 9th-grade student had made from her initial choice of a topic, through the research and writing, to the enthusiastic way she presented what she had learned to younger students.

If you are not an engineer or a scientist, do not let this prevent you from volunteering with the EnvironMentors. The most important thing is the willingness to play a part in the life of a high



**One EnvironMentor plus one proud student equals a successful partnership.**

school student. Patience and empathy are as important, and maybe more so, than a scientific background! Peter Franzen and Keith Brooks, the St. Louis staff for the EnvironMentors Project, provide lots of support for the mentors as well as the students and can point you to many resources in the community. In addition, networking with the other mentors is very beneficial. As you can see from the web site, the EnvironMentors has been around for several years in Washington D. C., Baltimore, Princeton, and Trenton, although it is only entering its second year in St. Louis. The web site is: <http://www.EnvironMentors.org>

If you have any questions about the program or my experiences last year, please feel free to

contact me by email or by phone (331-8221)

Editor's Note: The EnvironMentors Program is still in need of Mentors. Responsibilities include suggesting project topics, identifying research materials and methods, assisting with project design, and helping to develop science fair presentations and confidence in a student's abilities. If you want to sign up to guide a child down the right path, please contact Terrie Hatfield, ext. 8001.



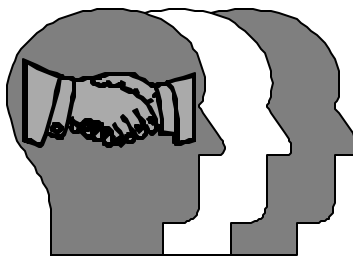
**Mentors always help students emerge as beautiful butterflies.**





## Tenth anniversary of ADA's Passage

Landmark Enactment in 1990



## EEO matters

### Hire more people with disabilities

Federal agencies are scrambling to put into place blueprints detailing how they will hire 100,000 people with disabilities within the next five years. Executive Order 13163 pushed agencies into action. The effect of this EO should be to help break down barriers to employment of people with disabilities. Another EO 13164 mandates that agencies will establish procedures to facilitate reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act, whose provisions now cover federal employees, requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who request them, unless doing so would cause an undue hardship. Agencies must submit accommodation procedures to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) by July, 2001.

### Reasonable accommodation notices to Appear in Job Announcements

In another move to spur lagging employment of people with disabilities, the Office of Personnel Management is requiring federal agencies to include in their job announcements notices that reasonable accommodations will be made for qualified applicants. Speaking at a national training conference OPM director, Janice Lachance declared that she wanted it "to be

known that every qualified person for every occupation in government is welcome." Reasonable accommodations, according to OPM, include such actions as modifying job duties, obtaining accessible technology or other workplace adaptive equipment, providing interpreters or restructuring work site. The agency issued a rule to make it easier to offer permanent jobs to people with psychiatric disabilities after they have completed successfully two years of service.

### Attitude

A study conducted by Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations shows that the negative attitude of managers toward people with disabilities is keeping a large applicant pool of people with disabilities unemployed. According to the study, 43 percent of federal managers and 23 percent of private employers admit poor attitude is a major job barrier for people with disabilities. The study did find that some things have improved for workers with disabilities. Because of the ADA, about 93 percent of federal employers and 82 percent of private sector employers reported they have made accessibility changes, restructured jobs and work hours and applied human resources policies in a flexible manner to accommodate individual needs.

### QUOTE TO NOTE:

"While it has been a decade since the passage of the ADA, there is still widespread discrimination against people with disabilities. The fight for civil rights for people with disabilities is not so different from the civil rights movement of the 1960s on the matter of race. EEOC's law enforcement efforts, particularly our litigation program, must be a dynamic part of this movement." — Paul Igasaki, vice chairman, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, on July 27, the 10th anniversary of ADA.



Congratulations and welcome to Tandika Gates, who was recently converted to Student Trainee (EEO). Tan was a longtime contract employee in the EEO office.



# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ON THE PLAINS OF EAST AFRICA

By Jaynie Doerr, Park Ranger Student Trainee

This past summer I was quite fortunate to participate in a wildlife management program offered by the School for Field Studies (SFS) in Kenya, East Africa. I spent four weeks in the Athi-Kapiti plains, an area southeast of Nairobi. My adventure was wonderful! Upon my arrival in Kenya, I immediately felt at “home”. This is where I have always wanted to visit, even have a career. The country was not what I had imagined it to be—it was better! The wildlife and the people were amazing. Prior to my arrival, I had been painted an ugly picture by some that most Kenyans hated Americans and that Nairobi was a terrible and dangerous city. This is not true. I found the people to be very helpful and as interested in speaking with me as I was to them. I felt that as long as I was aware of my location and used common sense, my personal safety was not threatened—just as at home or in any country, state or city around the globe.



A wild lioness awaits dinner on the Serengeti plains.

The housing situation is another story. Most Kenyans live in shacks made of cardboard or scrap metal. A family of 8 may live in an area as small as 10 feet by 10 feet. Most homes are located on the edges of major roadways that look like a huge dump due to the amount of trash lining the routes. If land is not labeled as a national park or reserve, litter is not controlled. This site weighed heavy on my heart, as did the living conditions of the people themselves.

I found the climate to be very pleasant. Kenya lies in the southern hemisphere where the seasons are the opposite of those at home in North America. It was winter in Kenya with the temperature as high as 65 to 68° F. This may seem cool but the sun was intense. Sunscreen was an amenity that was worth lathering on each day. My group did get some odd stares as we worked around the ranch in tank tops during the day while the natives bundled up in thick, insulated jackets. If the sun was shining, the temperature felt warmer, but to the Kenyans who suffer through a miserably hot summer, this season was a relief. The temperature dropped into the teens on the coldest nights.

Now—about the animals. Yes, I saw lions, buffalo, leopards, el-



My Serengeti campsite.

ephants and rhinoceros—the “Big Five” as Kenya calls them. They are magnificent! My group was given the opportunity to camp in the Serengeti for one week. It was here that I really came to understand how man is such a small part of this world. **In the Serengeti, humans are not at the top of the food chain.** The lions rule the land. As we bounced along the rocky, dirt roads, lions would casually cross our paths and sometimes lie in the road, blocking our travel. We moved as the lions moved—at their leisure. They were not tame by any means, and were definitely not afraid of us. We were in their territory and they reminded us of this each night with their loud, bellowing roars across the plains—the most

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beautiful, yet frightening, sounds I have heard in my life. I never imagined I would hear wild lions during the night with only a thin piece of tent material separating them from me.

During my stay, I realized the hardships of the conservation efforts that wildlife managers in Kenya are facing. I returned to the United States with a slightly different outlook on conservation management in Kenya. It was not until I examined some species of wildlife through the farmers' and pastoralists' eyes that I began to understand how some people could possibly view these beautiful creatures, such as lions and elephants, as pests. The majority of Kenyans raise cattle for a living. Without cattle, their families will starve. They know no other way to survive. They want land such as Nairobi National Park fenced completely to keep the lions from attacking their cattle. Farmers near the Serengeti, and other reserves,

want elephants isolated so they will not trample their crops. The thought of Kenya becoming just a large zoo is heart-breaking, but the image of families starving is worse. This is but one human-wildlife conflict that Kenyans are facing today. With the growing population of people, it is inevitable that Nairobi National Park will be completely fenced in the near future. This is a shame to the environment but no other remedy has been presented. It is the only way to protect the people on the outside and the species within the boundaries. I sincerely hope that Kenya resolves this problem before all wildlife is fenced.

Today, 70% of wildlife lives outside of national parks and reserves. What will tomorrow bring?

The research station is located at Game Ranching Ltd (GRL) which began in the early 1980s as an attempt to conserve wildlife by using an alternative to cattle ranching. Dr. David Hopcraft, owner of the ranch, uses the native wildlife of Kenya by cropping game animals each year and selling the meat to local restaurants and butcheries. Animals cropped are Grant's and Thomson's gazelle, eland, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, waterbuck, os-



trich, and hartebeest (kongoni). This idea has since spread to other ranchers and is a successful business. It is hoped that more local people will take this initiative and cease depending on cattle for their livelihood, because it is the cattle that are destroying the land, which is leading to a decline in native wildlife abundance. By cropping game animals, Kenyans are not only benefiting from local wildlife but also helping to conserve their population numbers as well. If the people can make a living from the animals they may no longer view them as pests.

This experience was a dream come true, and I want to return to Kenya. Someday, in the near future, I will travel back to Africa, revisit Kenya and explore other surrounding countries. I urge those who have the same desires to journey to other lands, wherever they may be, and make their dreams come true. These are experiences that you will never forget and will stay with you forever.





## Explosives (cont.)

Service park ranger Bill Kight's reaction when he was informed of the find. Two members of the Army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit from Fort Carson responded to destroy the shell. This unit was kept busy, as it responded on two other occasions when the St. Louis team located high explosive anti-tank rifle grenades at another location on the former Camp Hale.

Finding live munitions in an area near camping and hiking trails, especially right before the Labor Day weekend, gained the attention of local TV news stations. Two news crews departed the dedication of a new amphitheater in Vail by former President Ford, in pursuit of the story. A remotely-operated camcorder positioned within 50 meters of the demolition shot captured the explosion and was immediately transmitted to the TV studio for inclusion in the five o'clock news that evening. It was this kind of proactive publicity that both the State of Colorado and the US Forest Service needed to get the word out that there were still hazards associated with the former Camp Hale. In addition, signs were posted to close off the area where the rifle grenades were found.

In conducting the research, Jim Luebbert found that there was more to the Camp Hale story than just World War II mountaineering training. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, the



**An unexploded 155mm artillery shell**

CIA trained Tibetan guerrillas to fight the Chinese. Documents describing the kinds of munitions that were cleared from Camp Hale in 1964 indicated that the Tibetans fired 106mm recoilless rifles and the St. Louis team found evidence from this type of ammunition. From 1945 through 1964, Camp Hale was a subinstallation of Fort Carson and continued as a troop training ground.

The rigorous physical demands, combined with the need for coordination at many levels, gave the team great satisfaction in knowing that its efforts made the former Camp Hale a safer place for outdoor recreation.

## SCHWALBE ELECTED TO ENGINEERS' CLUB BOD

Jerry Schwalbe of the Ordnance and Technical Support Branch, Engineering Division, has been elected to a position on the St. Louis Engineers' Club Board of Directors. The St. Louis Engineers' Club is the third

oldest engineering society in America, organized in 1868. Membership includes, in addition to Professional Engineers, men and women in the technical, scientific, educational, marketing and legal fields. The St. Louis Club is home to over 1200 members and over 50 affiliated Professional Societies, representing over 14,000 members.

The Club is a nonpolitical and nonprofit society whose objectives and purposes are to promote the education and professional improvement of its members, to advance the field of engineering, to make technical and scientific information and knowledge available to the general public, and to aid in the solution of public questions involving engineering and scientific problems. The Club strives to develop and plan ongoing educational programs, seminars, professional tours, and other technically-oriented events. Congratulations, Jerry. Your many years of professional engineering experience will significantly contribute to the continuing success of this organization.







## 9th Annual Mark Twain Lake Environmental Education Day

The 9th Annual Environmental Education Day at Mark Twain Lake was a great opportunity for 17 area schools and 1,000 students to learn about our environment. Twenty-seven stations



manned by local businesses, government agencies, industries and special interest groups provided students the opportunity to learn what is currently being done to promote, protect and enhance our precious natural environment. Presenters gave programs and demonstrations throughout the day.

This event continues to be a success because of tremendous community support. District staff from Engineering and Regulatory also provided education stations for the event.

## LTG Flowers (cont.)

Fort Leonard Wood and commandant of the U.S. Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. In addition to assignment as Mississippi Valley Division Commander, previous assignments include Assistant Division Commander, 2nd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Korea; Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Engineer Center, and Assistant Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood; Commander, 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne Corps), Fort Bragg, N.C.; and other command and staff positions.

LTG Flowers graduated from the Virginia Military Institute and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1969. He then completed ranger and airborne training. His civilian and military education includes a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Virginia, the Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, Command and General

Staff College, and the National War College. LTG Flowers is a registered professional engineer in Virginia.

COL Morrow and Jim Ward attended the ceremony along with many other officers and civilian dignitaries. LTG Flowers, former MVD Commander, and president of the Mississippi River Commission, told Col Morrow that he will visit the St. Louis district in the near future and is very proud of all the good work being done here. District employees remember LTG Flowers as a "real person" who mingled with the employees. He made a point of learning names so he could communicate with everyone on a one-on-one basis. He seemed genuinely interested in the people, and knowledgeable of their work. The St. Louis District looks forward to working for him again.

photo by F.T. Eyre, HQUSACE



Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Chief of Staff, United States Army, and Mrs. Flowers pin his new rank on LTG. Robert Flowers during the Oct. 23 ceremony in Conmy Hall on Ft. Myer, Va.





# Dr. Westphal Visits St. Louis District Headquarters

By Terrie Hatfield

On 28 and 29 September, the St. Louis District was honored with a personal visit from Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Dr. Westphal was in St. Louis to attend the National Waterways Conference, and took the opportunity to visit our District and learn more about our mission.

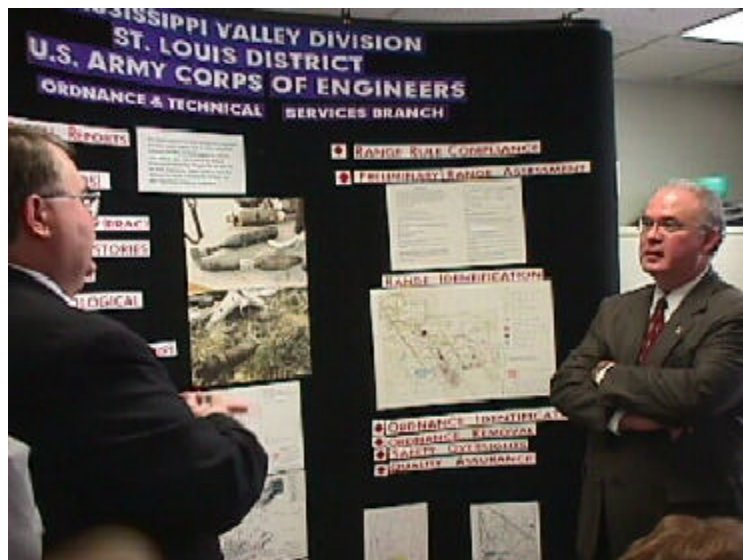
After meeting with COL Morrow and his staff, Dr. Westphal was briefed by Jim Ward, Dave Leake and Deborah Roush, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, on several St. Louis District projects containing overall policy implications for the Corps of Engineers. The first discussion concerned the East St. Louis Interior Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project. This project was first authorized in the 1960s and only addressed flood control as a project purpose with associated economic benefits. The project has been re-analyzed several times and an environmental and ecosystem restoration project purpose was added to address these needs within the area. The project will ultimately encompass environmental restoration, which will also provide much needed flood control to the area. Dr. Westphal expressed interest and support for this project, and it is probable that a positive study will be forwarded later this year for approval. The Wood River Levee Reconstruction Re-evaluation Study was discussed with emphasis on the policy questions of aging infrastructure and the design life of 1930's and 1940's

projects, even those with good operation and maintenance. The concepts of federal interest and pay-now planned rehabilitation or pay-later emergency repair were addressed. The final presentation concerned the Brownfields initiatives now underway with the cities of St. Louis and East St. Louis. Of concern was the need for additional Corps of Engineers authority to partner with EPA and other agencies to further the clean-up goals of cities and the nation. Dr. Westphal was very interested in the revitalization of both infrastructure and brownfields in our urban centers. A follow on discussion emphasized the importance of a continued strong planning effort in the Corps with focus on keeping and enhancing the skills of study managers in this area of expertise.

Dr. Westphal was then escorted to the Engineering Division's Ordnance and Technical Support Branch where displays were set up depicting current and past missions,

including an impressive array of unexploded ordnance, ammunition and other recovered hazardous materials. Branch Chief, Mike Dace, presented a briefing on his Branch's mission and accomplishments, including an overview of the Range Rule, the fundamentals of conducting Archive Search Reports, specific projects and discussion of future work.

Dr. Westphal was clearly paying close attention and asked pertinent questions. As he leafed through an archives report, he asked, "Who does your mapping?" He was rather surprised to learn that the St. Louis District also has considerable mapping capabilities. Mike explained how maps and overlays, assistance from the Geotechnical and Hydraulics Branches of Engineering Division and biological help from Project Management Division, assist in their archival searches. Dr. Westphal seemed intrigued with the extensive research, teamwork and procedures in-



(Continued on page 15)



# Congresswoman Emerson and Dr. Wesphal Visit Wappapello

by Andrew Jefferson

Pleasant temperatures and blue skies continued to blanket southeast Missouri as 8th U.S. District Congresswoman JoAnn Emerson showcased the Southeast Missouri Corps of Engineers Projects (Wappapello Lake and Clearwater Lake) to Headquarters dignitaries on Monday September 18, 2000.

Congresswoman Emerson and her staff seized the opportunity to invite Dr. Joseph Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and his entourage, Mr. Chip Smith OSA (CW), LTC Kevin Wilson, OSA (CW), Mr. Lloyd Smith (Chief of Staff), and Eddie Belk (Deputy Chief PPPMD, Little Rock District) to Clearwater Lake and Wappapello Lake as a stopover during their planned Southeast Missouri inspection tour.

The dignitaries toured recreation facilities of both Corps of Engineers Projects by air and land.



(l-r) Gary Stilts, Wappapello Operations Manager, Dr. Westphal, Congresswoman JoAnn Emerson, COL Morrow

The first destination was Clearwater Lake. Mike Miller (Chief of Operations, Little Rock District) navigated the aerial tour. Clearwater Lake Operations Manager James Bearden greeted them at the Clearwater Lake Project. Others accompanying the aerial tours included COL Krueger, Memphis District Commander and COL

Morrow, St. Louis District Commander. Upon completion of the visit to Clearwater Lake, the guests received an aerial tour of Wappapello Lake, which included the dam, recreational facilities, and BB Highway construction area. Wappapello Lake Operations Manager Gary Stilts navigated this aerial tour. Park Ranger Doug Nichols assisted with the land tour of the Redman Creek Campground and Day Use Area. The guests were quite impressed with the facilities, especially the castle playground equipment. Wappapello Lake staff greeted them as they were given a brief tour of the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center which was dedicated in honor of the late U.S. Congressman Bill Emerson in September 1996. The meeting with Dr. Westphal and Congresswoman Emerson was very successful. Discussions included completed and



(Continued on page 16)





## To your health



*"Ranger Willie B. Safe reminds you to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when day light savings arrives on the 29th. Don't let your safety efforts go up in smoke."*

## Collision

By Terrie Hatfield



Taking safety precautions cannot always prevent accidents or injury, but they can assist in preventing more serious injury, as Ecologist Tim George recently experienced. Tim was riding his bicycle one evening on a relatively quiet residential street near his home when a fawn suddenly appeared directly in front of him. Although Tim is an accomplished, licensed bicycle racer with expert control, a collision was unavoidable, and Tim was thrown into the middle of the street by the impact. Realizing he was injured, possibly seriously, Tim knew that he was not visible to oncoming traffic and had to somehow, and quickly, get out of harm's way before he had an even more serious

accident with a vehicle. He could not move his left side, but managed to drag himself to the shoulder of the road where he could do nothing but wait for help. After a short time, a passing vehicle with a car phone stopped and called 911. Tim then called his wife, Brenda, Chief of the District's Contracting Division, who met the ambulance at the scene of the accident.

Tim sustained a broken collarbone and pelvis, pulled groin muscle, back injury, and severe bruising on his left side. Possibly, the most serious injury was averted, however, as his safety helmet, cracked above the ear, quite likely prevented a severe head injury. As of this writing, Tim has had shoulder surgery, and is still very sore. We wish him well on his road to recovery.

Always the Wildlife Biologist, Tim was conscious of the fawn's bleating and its mother calling from the other side of the road. The fawn is presumed to be shaken up, but not injured.

Tim's experience illustrates several safety points. First, even an expert bicyclist can lose control on impact with an obstacle; second, and especially at this time of year, be alert for deer—they are everywhere, and even a small fawn can be trouble; third, always wear a helmet while riding a bicycle—Tim could have also sus-

tained severe head injuries had he not been wearing a helmet—even while riding just a few blocks from home.

## Overweight Kids Control Dinner

Why are so many children overweight? Doctors at Bassett Healthcare Research Institute in Cooperstown, New York say parental attitude is a factor. Parents often disbelieve or deny the fact that a child is overweight. Researchers for the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children in New York State discovered that parents of overweight children treat mealtime differently from parents of healthy children. They often let the child choose the meal, usually something less nutritious, and include sweets as a reward for a clean plate.

### THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

—The cornerstone of the White House was laid in 1792 (oldest building in Washington D.C.)

—Rebecca Felton (D, GA) was appointed the first woman Senator in 1922.

—Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in 1967.



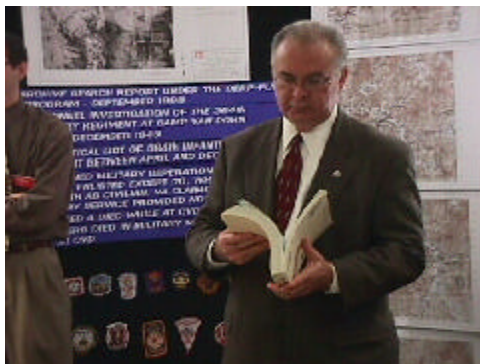


**Rochelle Hance shows samplings of unexploded ordnance**

involved in generating archives reports, particularly those involving long-ago military actions, and questioned the Branch historians, archivists and engineers about specific projects. As he examined the display of unexploded ordnance, ammunition and other hazardous materials rendered safe by trained ordnance professionals, he mused, “this has no potential to explode, right?” He was greeted by a chorus of “Uhhhs”, “Welllls”, and “Oooos”. Mike then explained that when even civil war cannon balls that have been under water for 100 years dry out, they can explode, no matter how old they are. He explained how civil engineer Rochelle Hance led a team of researchers on an east coast mission in search of hazardous material and found it on a golf course. This was followed by more reports of unexploded devices turning up in the most unexpected and disturbing places.

Mike explained the painstaking and lengthy process of uncovering the true story of the well-publicized accusations of mass murder of African American soldiers at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi, in 1943. He described how his Branch tracked down the

records of thousands of soldiers to show their presence at Camp Van Dorn through the alleged time period and of the transfer of the same soldiers to Alaska in December of 1943. Dr. Westphal remembered the story on CNN about Operation Tailwind in the Viet Nam War, but did not know that the St. Louis District Ordnance and Technical Services Branch was called upon to help find the truth behind the story in order to refute accusations made by CNN and Time Magazine of poison gas attacks against our own people. Mike identified places on maps and explained how the research group vindicated the United States Army with documented facts in both cases. He described how the same officer-in-charge of the Camp Van Dorn Investigation, now assigned to The Inspector General of the Army, requested his group by name to help investigate allegations of massacres of civilians by the U.S. Army in No Gun Ri, Korea, in July 1950, and explained how they discovered what went on and who was there. As he prepared to depart, Dr. Westphal said, “I’m glad to learn all this-I’ll bet nobody knows what you do-I didn’t”.



## Rapp Receives Commander's Award

Jerry Rapp was recently presented the Commander's Award for work performed on the Dry-bayou/Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor project. The award citation states:

“Mr. Rapp has worked tirelessly for over 14 years to develop an innovative erosion control method that has prevented a potentially catastrophic navigation situation. This erosion control method has been so successful that Mr. Rapp's technical expertise has become widely recognized in the development of various vegetative solutions for a wide range of overbank and bank line erosion problems. His research and design of innovative environmentally beneficial designs have earned him “expert” status throughout the Mississippi Valley Division, with other Corps elements and various environmental agencies and interests, including those of foreign countries. These designs are unprecedented, have no established guidelines and are based solely on Mr. Rapp's expertise and innovative experimentation. This work is considered by MVD to be a prototype demonstration for the entire Corps and is changing the way the Corps deals with severe erosion problems along the nation's waterways, while providing benefit to the government. Mr. Rapp's hard work, dedication and engineering innovation have been an example for others to follow and reflect great credit upon the St. Louis District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

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# Retiree Review

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September 21st was a great day. The weather was just perfect, the sky was clear and the temperature was in the lower 70's. The Cardinals had just won the divisional championship and the retirees had a representative from the District attend their monthly luncheon. In fact there were two representatives-Colonel Mike Morrow (the District Engineer) and Wally Feld (the Chief of Con-Ops).

WOW!!, this is the first time in many many months, that such distinguished individuals ingratiated the retirees with their presence. Colonel Morrow provided a short overview of the workload of the District. He mentioned the challenges and opportunities confronting the District, today. He invited all the retirees, those present and all those who couldn't make it, together with their families, to visit the various District projects and even the District Office and to introduce themselves to the staff. They will be happy to show you around. He also mentioned that he has established a new concept - a Survivor Assistance Office. This office is responsible to assist the families of deceased District employees and retirees in making tough decisions when the employee/retiree passes away. The point of contact will probably be the Human Resources Office (Personnel Office for the old timers). He mentioned that he intends to send all retirees a personal letter, to put in their important papers, on whom to contact and what to do when confronted with such a situation.

The Colonel was very interesting and provided the retirees with his background and management style. After answering questions, Colonel Morrow stated that he had to leave to take care of business. He also asked the retirees to consider volunteering their services in any way, shape or form. Just contact any of the projects

or someone in the District Office and they will provide you with information.

## Emerson (cont.)

ongoing efforts as well as planned improvements for the recreational facilities.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Headquarters guests departed to view areas along the Mississippi River and bootheel region that had been affected by the flood of 1995. COL Morrow accompanied Congresswoman Emerson in her flight back to St. Louis.

This was truly an honor to have such distinguished guests visit the birthplace of Ranger Willie B. Safe.

## Rapp (cont.)

Since a description of the project was published in the Engineer Update, Jerry has received requests for assistance from other Corps Districts and the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station. Congratulations, Jerry, on your outstanding achievement.

## Rend Lake Retiree Uses the ABC

by Dawn Kovarik

Long time Corps of Engineers employee Norman Carlile was the first employee in the St. Louis District to utilize the Army Benefits Center automated system to process his retirement paperwork. Norm, who has worked for the Corps

of Engineers at Rend Lake for the past 13 years retired 23 September, 2000.

When asked about his experience with the ABC, he said it was very positive one. He said that he had called the ABC two separate times. He said of the first call "there were just too many choices", and that he selected the wrong option a number of times. However, on the second call, after having listened to all the menu options, he easily worked his way through the system. After entering all the necessary information Norm was connected with an assistant named Debbie who was very helpful, courteous and polite and explained, in detail, everything that needed to be done in order to process the retirement papers. Within 10 minutes of the call Debbie had faxed the necessary paperwork directly to the field office. The whole process took less than 30 minutes from start to finish.

